South Africa & Cuba

+4

Neutral

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

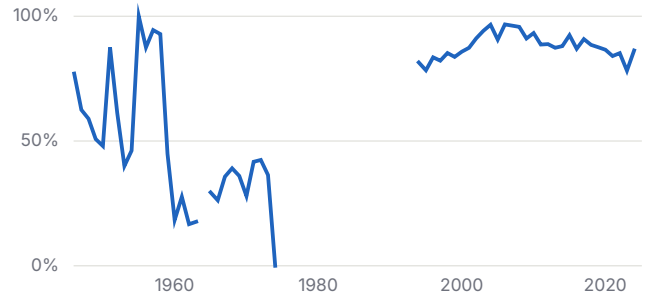
UN votes	+12
Trade	0
Security	0
Shared clubs	0

IN SHORT

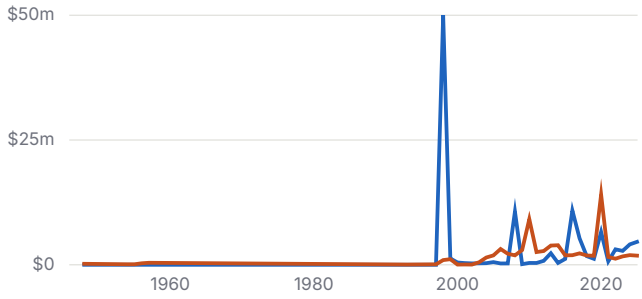
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the war in Angola, each supporting a side, most recently in 1988.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 83% (2022–2024), about average for both of them.
- Trade in goods ($5.7 million a year) is a very small part of either country's trade, under 0.5%.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Cuba names South Africa far more often than the reverse (120 sentences against 19).
- 455 people born in Cuba live in South Africa (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



Goods exports each way (US dollars)



South Africa sells to Cuba Cuba sells to South Africa

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

All roll-call votes	92% (1437 votes)
Disarmament	87% (174 votes)
Middle East	100% (192 votes)
Human rights	90% (243 votes)
Colonialism	99% (98 votes)
Nuclear weapons	93% (198 votes)
Economic development	90% (93 votes)

Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of South Africa and Cuba was 83% in 2022–2024. For South Africa, Cuba is the 76th most distant voting partner out of 191; for Cuba, South Africa is the 54th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $5.7 million a year in 2023–2025: less than 0.1% of all South Africa's trade and less than 0.1% of Cuba's.
Words	Since 1946, South Africa has named Cuba in 19 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Cuba has named South Africa in 120.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them supporting opposite sides of a third party's armed conflict (Angola, 1975–1988).
People	455 born in Cuba live in South Africa (2024, UN DESA).

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	268 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

NationsRelations. (2026). South Africa & Cuba [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/cub-zaf

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